

February 25, 2005

PATRICIA L HERBOLD CHAIRMAN
KING COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
845 106TH AVE NE STE 110
BELLEVUE WA 98004

Subject: Complaint Filed Against 36th District Democrats – PDC Case No. 05-108

Dear Ms. Herbold:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) staff has completed its investigation of your complaint received October 27, 2004, alleging that the 36th District Democrats failed to include proper sponsor identification on its political advertising entitled, “36th District Democrats Sample Ballot.”

The PDC staff reviewed your allegation in light of the following statute:

RCW 42.17.510 requires candidates, political committees and other persons that sponsor political advertising to fully identify the sponsor.

You alleged that the 36th District Democrats sent out political advertising prior to the 2004 general election in the form of a Sample Ballot that failed to include sponsor identification.

We found that:

- The 36th District Democrats distributed a sample ballot prior to the 2004 general election.
- The Sample Ballot included the words, “36th District Democrats” but did not include an address or the words “Paid for by” or “Sponsored by.”
- A Sponsor Identification Warning Letter (copy enclosed) was sent to Judith Hine, Chair of the 36th District Democrats, on November 1, 2004, advising her of the required elements in a complete sponsor identification.

The 36th District Democrats have been cautioned about using proper sponsor identification in future political advertising, and no enforcement action will be taken with respect to the sample ballot at issue.

After a careful review of the alleged violations and relevant facts, we have concluded our investigation and, with the concurrence of the Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, I am dismissing your complaint against the 36th District Democrats.

If you have questions, please contact Phil Stutzman, Director of Compliance, at (360) 664-8853 or toll free at 1-877-601-2828.

Sincerely,

Vicki Rippie
Executive Director

c: Judith Hine, 36th District Democrats

Enclosure